CLAIMS

1. In a wireless local area network, a method of communicating cellular network information comprising:

receiving cellular network information associated with one or more cellular networks;

formatting the cellular network information in a generic container message; and

transmitting, in an extensible authentication procedure, the generic container message for receipt by a mobile station.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a technology-specific container.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a tag field for identifying the generic container message.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a data field for identifying a technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a data field for identifying a standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network, and the cellular network information includes first cellular network information which identifies a first cellular network.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information is received from a network database.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes:

first cellular network information from a first cellular network; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes:

first cellular network information from a first cellular network having a first information content; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network having a second information content different from the first information content.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes:

first cellular network information which identifies a first cellular network; and

second cellular network information which identifies a second cellular network.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes a mobile network code (MNC) and a mobile country code (MCC) which identifies a first cellular network.

11. In a mobile station, a method of receiving and processing cellular network information from a wireless local area network comprising:

receiving, in an extensible authentication procedure, a generic container message from a wireless local area network;

decoding the generic container message to identify cellular network information from one or more cellular networks; and

storing the cellular network information in memory of the mobile station.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the generic container message includes a technology-specific container.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the generic container message includes a tag field which identifies the generic container message.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the generic container message includes a data field for identifying a technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes:

first cellular network information from a first cellular network; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes a mobile network code (MNC) and a mobile country code (MCC) which identifies a first cellular network.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes first cellular network information which identifies a first cellular network and second cellular network information which identifies a second cellular network, the method further comprising:

selecting one of the first and the second cellular networks for communication through the wireless local area network.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes:

first cellular network information from a first cellular network which operates in accordance with a first communication standard; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network which operates in accordance with a second communication standard different from the first communication standard.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes:

first cellular network information from a first cellular network having a first information content; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network having a second information content different from the first information content.

20. The method of claim 11, wherein one of the cellular networks operates in accordance with a 3rd Generation Project Partnership (3GPP) standard.